



Phillip Dean Gunden

February 13, 1983 - April 18, 2014

Phillip Dean Gunden, 31, of Clare, passed away on Friday, April 18, 2014, in the comfort of his home. He was born in Clare, Michigan on February 13, 1983, to Lamar and Cathy (Irwin) Gunden of Clare. He graduated from Harrison High School with the class of 2001. He went on to attend college at Saginaw Valley State University where he graduated in 2005, with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Political Science. Phil then went on to get his certification in Secondary Education to teach Social Studies.

In 2006, he met his future wife, Lindsey (Manderbach), daughter of Michael and Suzanne (Berg) Manderbach, also of Clare. They were married on July 9, 2011, at the Clare United Methodist Church. They started their married life in Bluffton, South Carolina where they resided until they returned to Clare in the summer of 2013.

His competitive nature inspired his lifelong love of sports. He was particularly thrilled with any Wolverine victory. Go Blue! Phil was known for his sense of humor and quick wit. He could easily relate to all kinds of people and strike up a conversation with almost anyone he encountered. Phil was lovable and charismatic. He always made those around him feel valued. Phil had an entrepreneurial spirit and dreamed of one day owning his own restaurant. He was a founding partner and co-CEO of G & H Concessions. Phil was proud to bring culinary delight to venues throughout the State of Michigan! He had a spontaneous spirit and was always up for an adventure.

After almost 8 years of battling cancer, Phil never once lost his faith. In fact,

Phil believed his struggle was actually a blessing because it led him to have a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. We can all have comfort in knowing that Phil is no longer held captive by the struggles of this earth. Because Phil was at peace with his circumstance, it was his desire that his friends and family be at peace also.

Phil is survived by his loving wife, Lindsey; his parents, Cathy and Lamar; his sister, Erin (Andrew) Heyboer and nephews, Jackson and Grady of Sault Ste. Marie; his sister, Alison Gunden of St. Johns; his parents-in-law, Michael and Suzanne; his brother-in-law, Jason (Lauren) Manderbach of Clare; and grandmother, Anita Irwin of Clare.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, April 24, 1 p.m. followed by a luncheon. Visitation will be Wednesday, April 23, 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Both will be held at Brown Corners Church in Clare, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to express sympathy may consider making a contribution to the family for incurred medical expenses. Arrangements were handled by the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home. On-line condolences may be left at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Cemetery Details

Arthur Township Cemetery

2500 S. Athey Ave.
Clare, MI 48617

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **23**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Brown Corners United Brethren Church
5540 S. Clare Avenue
Clare, MI 48617

Visitation

APR **23**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Brown Corners United Brethren Church
5540 S. Clare Avenue
Clare, MI 48617

Service

APR **24**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Brown Corners United Brethren Church
5540 S. Clare Avenue
Clare, MI 48617

Tribute Wall

BP

“ I met Phil my senior year of high school and then went on to SVSU with him. I have amazing memories just hanging out in Harrison or attending TKE parties. I feel blessed to have known him. Praying for his family during this time.

Bree Paisley

Breanne Paisley - April 22, 2014 at 05:49 PM

SS

“ Dear Lindsey, Cathy, Lamar and family, I just got the news a few minutes ago and am devastated for you. Phil was so awesome. We shared some great memories during our hours together while he student taught. In January he and Lindsey went to a good deal of trouble to meet me for lunch and I was touched by both of their vibrant outlook and positive demeanor. I love him and will miss our emails and talks. My condolences to your entire family. Suzi Shellenbarger

Suzi Shellenbarger - April 22, 2014 at 03:43 PM

MO

“ I am so sorry to hear of Phillip's passing. He was a great student in high school, and grew up to be a great role model for others. May you all hold your memories close and think of them fondly.
Sincerely, Mary Oakley, Harrison High School

Mary Oakley - April 22, 2014 at 03:13 PM

KG

“ *Kris Martinez and the Martinez Creative Group purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Phillip Dean Gunden.*



Kris Martinez and the Martinez Creative Group - April 22, 2014 at 02:04 PM

BG

“ *Brothers and Sisters of Emma Barge Gunden purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Phillip Dean Gunden.*



Brothers and Sisters of Emma Barge Gunden - April 22, 2014 at 01:42 PM

TS

“ *We send our condolences to your family on the death of Phillip. May God bring you comfort for the days ahead. Sincerely, Terry & June Sturm from Pigeon, MI*

terry sturm - April 22, 2014 at 12:01 PM

KR

“ *Phil was a good Frater and a good man. I am so sorry for your loss. I am happy that I got to spend time with Phil at SVSU. I remember recruiting Phil when I was a senior. I vividly remember that he did not take any crap from anyone, even big bad Timmy. It is very simple, I smile when I think of Phil. Competative, Smart, and a true person that lived for others and not himself. Frater I love you, We will all miss you.*

Karl Rishe - April 21, 2014 at 08:45 PM

HS

“ I am so sorry to hear of Phillips passing. I have wonderful memories of being in class with him for several years. I am praying for you all as you go through this week. With much love, Holly Cuddie Splan

Holly Cuddie Splan - April 21, 2014 at 05:52 PM

 Sonja Skerbeck

“ We are sorry to hear of your family's loss. Please accept our condolences and prayers in this time of great sadness. Sincerely, Jamie and Sonja Skerbeck.

Sonja Skerbeck - April 21, 2014 at 12:37 PM

TH

“ Our prayers and our thoughts go out to Phil's entire family. My greatest memory of Phil will always be the quiet dignity with which he conducted himself, whether it be in the classroom or on the athletic field when he was our student at HHS. God bless him and the entire family at this sad time. May he rest in peace.
Tom and Cathy House and Family

Tom House - April 21, 2014 at 09:39 AM

TF

“ Dear Cathy, Lamar, Erin, Alison and Family,
We are so sorry to hear of Phil's passing. Even though we have not kept in close contact since our Son's Great Hockey accomplishments (which were our best times of our lives) we have thought of you all very often.
You did a fantastic job raising Phil to be a smart, caring, thoughtful, hard working young man. He was a great leader in so many ways. In his own quiet way. he lead by example.
I can only think that the Good Lord wanted Phil to be with him and that Phil did not cause what has happened to him from neglect and is the only way we can understand this.
Our hearts and love our with you.
Wayne, Debbie and Nicholas Barry

The Barry Family - April 21, 2014 at 09:26 AM

SS

“ Lindsey, Cathy, Lamar, Erin, and Alison. I am back in NJ and still regret that we cannot be there on Thursday, but please know that our hearts will be with you; and I am grateful that I was able to hug each of you Saturday, if only briefly.



Sam, Susan, Sophia, and Sydney Sapienza - April 21, 2014 at 08:32 AM

PT

“ Phil's Hockey Teammates purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Phillip Dean Gunden.



Phil's Hockey Teammates - April 21, 2014 at 07:23 AM

TF

“ To the Gunden and Manderbach Family and the many friends of Phil,
We are very sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
The Luplow Family

The Luplow Family - April 20, 2014 at 09:57 PM

MS

“ Cathy, Lamar and family - I can't imagine how painful it is to lose a child and the pain and grief you are going through. All my love, thoughts and prayers are with you through this terribly difficult time.
Love, cousin Annie

Mary Ann Stadler - April 20, 2014 at 08:06 PM

 Jamie
McAllister

“ This is not only a tribute to Phil, but a tribute to the Gunden family. Cathy Gunden has a special place in my heart, and I wish her and her family all of my prayers through this tough time. Phil and I went to high school together, and although I was never close to him, it was clear that he was a very good person, an honest person, and very well-respected by his peers. From reading the obituary, I can tell that Phil really blossomed after high school and took advantage of every opportunity that God gave him to use his talents. Best wishes and prayers to his parents, sisters, wife, and nieces and nephews. You are a beautiful, loving family.

Jamie McAllister - April 20, 2014 at 06:31 PM



“ *Were to begin... Phil was a amazing smart person. Great to everyone no matter what.. My greatest memories of him was for sure in baseball. I loved being able to see my brother and Phil paying ball. Phil was a amazing first base man. Seen him in the splits many of times to make sure he got that out. :-)* I was just learning to do book and phil would always make sure I got every play he made :).. Thank you for all the great memories that I share with my own children as they play ball.. You will be missed by many. Praying for your family in this time of loss. Rip buddy

Jessica Engel - April 20, 2014 at 11:05 AM